

REMARKS AND REQUEST FOR EXTENSION

The applicant requests a three-month extension of time up to April 28, 2005 in which to file the present response. Please charge the \$1,020 fee in connection with this request to our Deposit Account No. 22-0261. In the event the Examiner finds that additional fees are required, he or she is hereby authorized to charge to our Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

[1] In the Office Action dated October 28, 2004, the Examiner has indicated that:

(i) Claims 22-30, 34-36 and 37-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heidrich(US Patent 3, 811,658) in view of Hatch(US Patent 4,943,068).

(ii) Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heidrich and Hatch as applied to claim 22 above, and further in view of DeHart(US.4,573,690).

(iii) Claims 32-33 are objected as being dependent upon a rejected base, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

[2] In response to the Examiner's indication, Claim 32 is rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the rejected base claim in order to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 33 and 34 are amended to correct typographical errors and to render the claims dependent upon amended Claim 32. Claims 35 and 36 are also amended to be dependent upon the amended Claim 32.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all grounds of rejection have been traversed and the case is now in condition for allowance. In the event that there are any minor outstanding issues that may remain, if it would be convenient for the Examiner, the

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Applicants: Tetsuya WATANABE et al.

Applicant's attorney would be pleased to discuss any further issues with the Examiner and he can be reached at the phone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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